
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Re: Emotional Support Animal

Student's Name: _____

Re: Proposed ESA (if identified):

Name: _____

Type of animal: _____

Age of animal: _____

Office of Academic Accessibility

008 Ramsey Library CPO#1575
UNC Asheville
1 University Heights
Asheville, North Carolina 28804

T 828|232-5050
F 828|251-6492
oaa.unca.edu

The above-named student has indicated that you are the (physician, psychiatrist, mental health worker) who has suggested that having an Emotional Support Animal (ESA) in the residence hall will be helpful in alleviating one or more of the identified symptoms or effects of the student's disability. Generally, we accept documentation from providers in the State of North Carolina, or the student's home state. Letters purchased from the internet for a set price rarely provide the information necessary to support an ESA request. So that we may better evaluate the request for this accommodation, please answer the following questions:

Information About the Student's Disability

(A person with a disability is defined as someone who has "a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.")

What is the nature of the student's mental health impairment (that is, how is the student substantially limited?)

Does the student require ongoing treatment?

When did you first meet with the student regarding this mental health diagnosis?

Information About the Proposed ESA

(Please note that there are some restrictions on the kind of animal that can be approved for the residence hall; it is possible the student may be approved for an ESA, based on the information you provide here, but may not be allowed to bring the specific animal named.)

Is the animal named here one that you specifically prescribed as part of treatment for the student, or is it a pet that you believe will have a beneficial effect for the student while in residence on campus?

What symptoms will be reduced by having an ESA?

How was this recommendation evaluated, assessed or otherwise observed?

Is there evidence that an ESA has helped this student in the past or currently?

Importance of ESA to Student’s Well-Being

In your opinion, how important is it for the student’s well-being that an ESA be in residence on campus? What consequences, in terms of disability symptomology, may result if the accommodation is not approved?

Have you discussed the responsibilities associated with properly caring for an animal while engaged in typical college activities and residing in campus housing? Do you believe those responsibilities might exacerbate the student’s symptoms in any way? (If you have not had this conversation with the student, we will discuss with the student at a later date.)

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form. If we need additional information, we may contact you at a later date. The named student has signed this form (below) indicating written permission to share additional information with us in support of the request.

We recognize that having an ESA in the residence hall can be a real benefit for someone with a significant mental health disorder, but the practical limitations of our housing arrangements make it necessary to carefully consider the impact of the request for an ESA on both the student and the campus community.

Please provide contact information, sign and date this questionnaire (below), and return it to our office by fax, email, or regular mail.

Your Contact Information:

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

FAX and/or Email address: _____

Professional Signature: _____

License #: _____

Date: _____

STUDENT (please sign this form before providing it to your mental health provider to complete):

By signing below, I consent to allowing my mental health provider to share any information relevant to my need for an ESA as an accommodation, as shown on this form, with the Office of Academic Accessibility for the next 60 days.

Signature

Date